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A TRUE
ACCOUNT
OF A
Strange and Wonderful
RELATION
OF ONE
John Tonken,
OF
PENSANS in CORNWALL,
SAID

To be Bewitched by some Women; two of which on Suspicion are committed to Prison. He Vomiting up several *Pins*, pieces of *Walnut-shells*, an Ear of *Rye*, with a Straw to it half a yard long and *Riſhes* of the same Length; which are kept to be Shown at the next Assizes for the said County.

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*Gift of
Prof. G. L. Kittredge*

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Very strange are the delusions of *Satan*,
to get the Souls and Bodies of Men
into his possession ; he leaving no ways
or means unattempted, to accomplish his ends :
How dreadful then is it for such who give
up themselves Voluntarily to do his druggery,
and sell their Souls to Eternal punishment, for
a little Momentany pleasure, or to fulfil their
own Lusts here , and such may all those truly

be said to be, who are guilty of Witchcraft, which detestable Sin, God himself abominates, and hath expressed in Holy Writ, *Thou shalt not suffer a Witch or Wizard to live in the Land.* Of which Number, these two Women Committed as aforesaid, are supposed to be; as the ensuing Discourse will make out.

One *John Tonken*, of *Pensans*, near the *Mount* in *Cornwall*, about 15 or 16 Years of Age, was in *April* last strangely taken with sudden fits; And on the 4th. of *May*, 1686. as he lay in Bed, there appeared to him a Woman in a blue Jerkin and Red Petticoat, with Yellow and Green patches, and told him, that he would not be well before he had brought up *Nutshells Pins*, and *Nails*; which the Boy afterwards related to several People that were at his Chamber, though none did see or hear the Apparition, but himself: soon after the Lad was taken with fits of striving, or yoaking, inso-much, that two Men could scarce hold him, and after several fits, he brought up three *Pins*, and half a *Walnut-shell*, and in few days after, he brought up three *Walnut-shell*, and several *Pins*, some of which were Crooked. The
Woman.

Woman very often appeared to him, sometimes in the shape as before; at other times like a *Cat*; whereupon the Boy would shreik, and cry out that he would not see her, laying his hands over his Eyes and Mouth, and would say with a loud voice, she is putting things into my Mouth, she will Choak me, she will Poyson me. At other times he would say, I will not be Tempted by thee, and in the Name of *Iesus*, I defie, thee and all thy works: for a while he would ly as Dead, and on a sudden he would spring from the Bed, three or four Foot high, from between two Men that usually sat upon the Bed by him. At another time he said the Woman told him he had Straws in his Belly, and in a short time after, he brought up four or five *Straws*, as also an ear of *Rye*, with a *Straw* to it half a yard long; and for two or three days *Successively* he brought up great quantity's of *Straws* and *Ruskes*, some of them being a yard long, with broad knots in them: The Pins he brought up were in all 16 or 17 and as many *Straws* and *Ruskes* as would fill the Pole of a Mans Hat, if they were thrown in somewhat lose,

one

one without a Head and one turned like a Fish-Hook, the Woman another time appeared to him and told him he should bring up *Nails*, and that as they were insensibly put into him, so he should in like manner bring them out, and in few Hours after, the Boy cryed out he was prick'd in the Heel, the People that were then present, turned the Bedcloaths off, and found a new threepeny Nail fast to his Heel, and another in the Bed; he also brought up a piece of dry *Bramble*, and several pieces of flat Sticks, which put together, made the form of a Breeding Needle, such as the Fishermen make their Nets with. Some Persons to be satisfied of the truth of this, came to him, and put their Fingers into his Mouth to search if he had any *Pins* or *Rustles*, thinking he might put a trick on them, but found none, though some came every day from him. On the 10th. of May, was his violent fit, when he hardly had any Cessation from his pulls or throws for several Hours, he started very much, and being asked what the Woman had said to him, replied, she told him she would kill him, if it were in her Power; but he said he hoped God would

would not permit her. In one of his Staring fits, a person of Note observing his Eyes to be fixed in the Thatch of the House, thrust his Sword into the Thatch twice, then the Boy cryed she is gone into the Corner like a Mouse: at that time he brought up a *Pin* very rusty, and a little bowed, which was took up and kept. The last thing that he brought up, was a piece of a Beeting Needle, half an Inch broad, and an Inch and a half long, with two sharp points like pins, one at each end which things have caused great Admiracion: He would often cry out she had put Poyson into his Mouth, and call upon one *Edward Plimrose*, who was his Uncle, to catch her, saying she was going out of the Window. Sometimes he would say to her, when shall I be well? Make me well I will give thee five Shillings, I'll give thee five Pound; and then turning his Eyes to the People, would say, she will not tell me when I shall be well. Another time he said to her tell me your Name, and where you do dwell? then turning to the People, would say, the Old Witch will neither tell me her Name, nor where she dwells. The last time, there

there appeared to him three Women, where-
 at he cried out, what a Cofederancy? What
 you Old Witch more Confederates, and then
 ſhe bad him farewell, and ſaid ſhe would
 trouble him no more; and two days af-
 ter, the Boy was pretty well again, and goes
 abroad with Crutches. Of this, Affidavit
 hath been made before a Juſtice by ſeveral Per-
 ſons and they are ſent to *Lanceſton* Gaol, for
 Witchcraft, two Old Women, one *Jane Noat*,
 alias *Nickleſs*, and the other *Elizabeth*, of
 more commonly *Betty Seeze*. We live in hopes
 they will be found out at the next Aſſizes, and
 ſo receive a reward due to their Merits. To
 the truth hereof we have herunto ſet our
 Hands,

Peter Jenken, Mayor.

John Goſe, Juſtice.

F I N I S.

